



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Press Contact Information

Cheri Smith
P.O. Box 12277
Austin, Texas 78711-2277
512-463-4828 / Fax 512-475-2395
Cell/512-815-9499

cheri.smith@tvc.texas.gov

press@tvc.texas.gov

Event Contact Information

254-299-9180/9166

Press Release

For Immediate Release: July 9, 2013

Release No. 20130709-01

Texas Veterans Commission Continues to Help Alleviate the VA Backlog with Irving Event

IRVING - The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) will host a "Beating the VA Backlog" event in Irving on July 13 in order to provide specific, one-on-one guidance to Texas Veterans, family members and survivors with pending disability claims from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This event will take place in at the Westin Dallas Ft. Worth Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

TVC holds backlog events in order to serve Veterans through the State Strike Force Teams, which were created by Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and House Speaker Joe Straus last summer to help reduce the backlog of disability claims in Texas where the two VA Regional Offices had the third and fourth highest numbers of pending claims in the country.

"Since the TVC State Strike Force Teams were authorized by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House, we have already helped almost 19,000 Veterans with their backlogged claims, and provided over 5,000 cases to the VA for action," said Thomas Palladino, TVC Executive Director. "This 'Beating the VA Backlog' event is one of several events that the TVC is holding around the state as we try to help Texas Veterans get the benefits they deserve."

In addition to the work the Strike Force Team has been doing in the VA Regional Offices, the team and TVC claims counselors have also served over 1,760 Veterans at these events across the state, including Houston, Harlingen, El Paso, Arlington, Austin, Amarillo, Corpus Christi, and twice in San Antonio.

The success of the State Strike Force Team, as well as the Fully Developed Claims Team, and the continued need to serve Veterans, led Lt. Gov. Dewhurst, Speaker Straus, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Tommy Williams and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Pitts to continue funding through the 2014- 2015 biennium for these

initiatives and also authorized additional funding to provide 16 more staff members for these teams.

The upcoming “Beating the VA Backlog” event is open to all Veterans, their families and survivors, and all services are free of charge. Preregistering will give staff an opportunity to research your claim prior to the event and provide you with the ability to select an appointment time. Walk-ins are allowed on a first-come, first-served basis as time allows. For details regarding this event, contact information and registration, please visit: <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/Beating-the-VA-Backlog.aspx>.

Texas Veterans Commission

The mission of the Texas Veterans Commission is to advocate for and provide superior service to Veterans and their families in the areas of disability claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and grant funding. Over 200 skilled counselors in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled. For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission services click here: <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx>.

-- ### --